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THE CALIFORNIA ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL

Incorporating
THE LOS ANGELES JOURNAL OF ECLECTIC MEDICINE
AND THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL JOURNAL

ISSUED MONTHLY

JANUARY, 1919

O. C. WELBOURN, A. M., M. D., Editor
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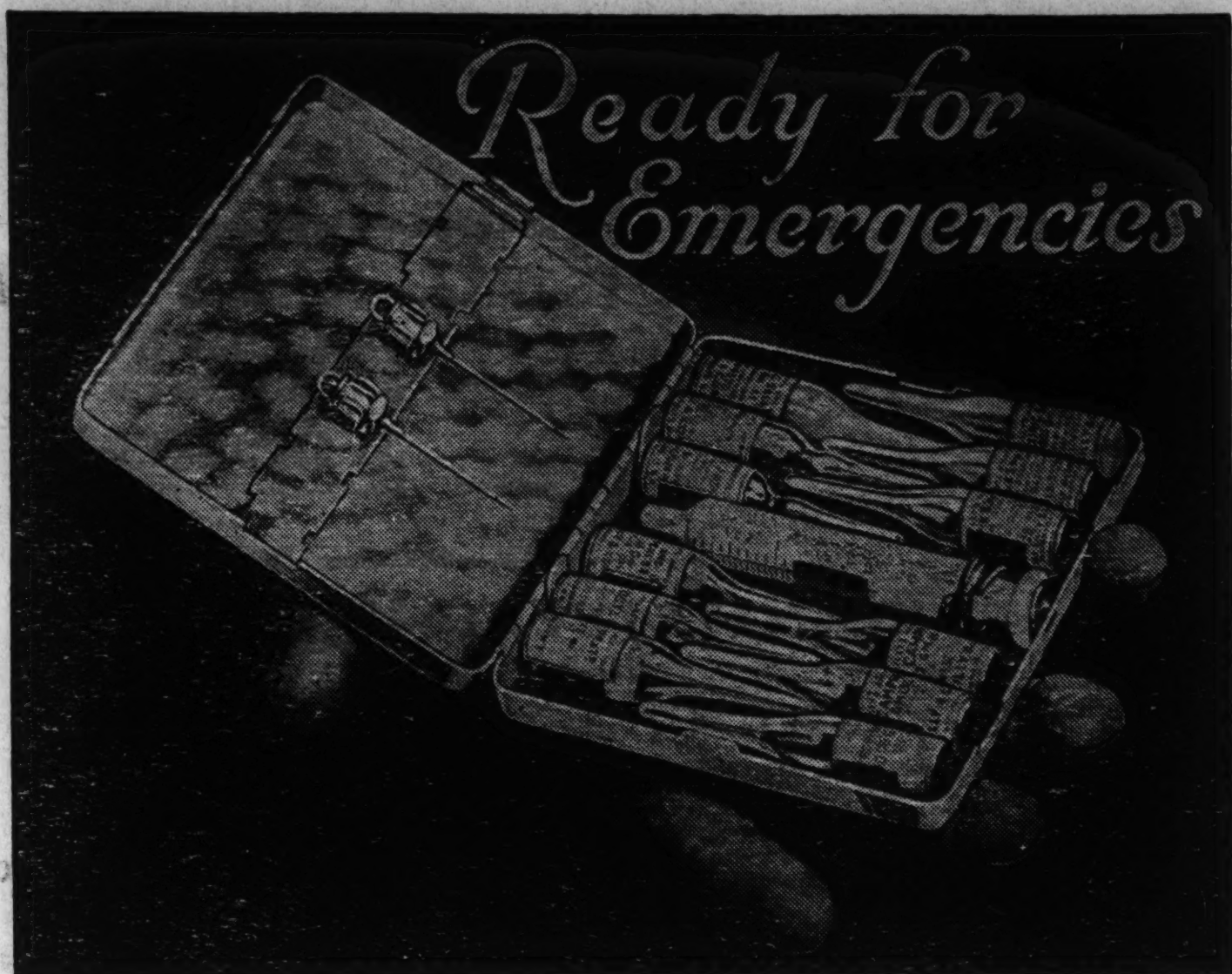
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AND

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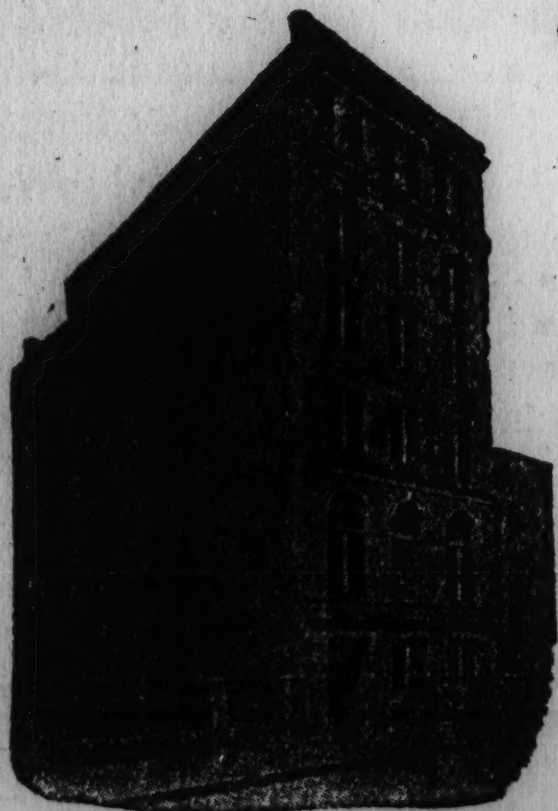
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The California Eclectic Medical Journal

Vol. ~~XL~~ ~~XI~~ ||

JANUARY, 1919

No. 1

☛ Original Contributions ☛

HERNIA

H. V. Crook, M. D., Big Pine, California

There is quite a large variety of hernias which may occur by the protrusion of any viscus through the walls of the cavity containing it. In the study of embryology when we consider the manner in which the different parts of the body develop, the fact that hernia does not occur any oftener than it does is truly to be marveled at.

We will not take time to mention all the varieties that are found but will confine our attention to some of the more common ones and a few of the methods of treating them. Ordinarily when hernia is spoken of we think of the inguinal, direct or indirect, femoral or umbilical, which occur at points in the abdominal wall weakened by the passage of vessels and nerves.

Rose and Carless say that incomplete obliteration of the funicular process of the peritoneum is the cause in the majority of cases of oblique inguinal hernia in males, and under twenty-five years of age in the females. Hernia into the canal of Nuck is the most frequent variety met with. Some of the congenital causes are, a. Non-obliteration as above; b. Inherited weakness of the abdominal walls; c. Congenital phimosis causing forced micturition. Acquired causes are, (a) Strains, especially occupational, (b) Constipation, enlarged prostate, strictures, etc., (c) Relaxation of the mesentery allowing the intestines to lie in the hypogastric region is apt to cause the direct form, especially in old people, (d) Obesity is another potent cause in the aged.

It is unnecessary to go into detail as to the construction of the hernial sac, as the actual condition found at the time of

operation depends on the length of time the condition has been present, also whether there have been any palliative measures taken to relieve it. Any of the abdominal contents, with the possible exception of the pancreas, may be found in the sac, although it is unusual to find any except small intestine or omentum. The vermiform appendix is occasionally found in hernia on the right side, in which case patients usually give a history of repeated attacks of inflammation of the sac and it is usually more painful than the ordinary case, the pain being referred to the umbilical region.

When the bladder is involved in the hernial sac, it constitutes a very serious condition. If it is not recognized at the time of the operation it may be opened and extravasation of urine take place into the peritoneal cavity, resulting in a fatal issue if the condition is not properly relieved by opening up the wound, closing the hole in the wall of the bladder and draining the peritoneal cavity.

Palliative Measures. Trusses of all shapes and various kinds of material are used, as no one kind is applicable in all cases. For infants a skein of yarn is used as a truss in inguinal hernia and if rightly employed it is frequently successful. In adults the usual form is some kind of a pad varying in size and shape to meet the necessary conditions. They give the patient temporary comfort while worn and sometimes effect a cure if applied early and in such a manner as to cause a certain amount of irritation.

Radical Measures. The mortality in properly selected cases under surgical means is given as less than one-half of one per cent. Certain conditions must be taken into consideration in giving a prognosis. The prognosis gradually becomes less favorable as the age of the patient increases, being most favorable at puberty.

There are almost as many operations for hernia as there are surgeons, figuratively speaking, as each one has his own ideas and they endeavor to make it a little different from the other fellow's system. **Bassini Method:** One of the most common and among the best is Bassini's method in which after division of the tissues and isolation of the sac, the surgeon completes the operation by making a new floor for the canal by drawing the arched fibers of the internal oblique and transversalis muscles or the conjoined tendon down to Poupart's ligament. The spermatic cord is held up out of the way by a loop of gauze or other means while these sutures are being placed. It is to be remembered in placing these sutures that the external iliac vessels are in very close proximity and

may be injured. Macewen Method: In Macewen's method the inguinal canal is explored through the external ring without division of the aponeurosis of the external oblique muscle. The hernial sac is made into a pad and manipulated into position and fastened in such a way as to close the internal ring. Sutures are passed from the conjoined tendon to Poupart's ligament drawing it up in front of the cord. It is obvious that one loses the advantage of opening the canal in using this method. It is also more difficult to perform than Bassini's. Halstead Method: In Halstead's method the cremaster muscle is dissected free and used to help form a floor for the canal and the aponeurosis of the external oblique is overlapped in front of the cord. Excellent results are said to have followed this method.

The treatment of congenital hernia is essentially the same except that it is necessary to close the tunica vaginalis with a suture or ligature. After treatment consists in placing the patient in the recumbent position until sufficient time has elapsed to allow cicatricial tissue to form and after three weeks allowing the patient to gradually resume their usual vocation. Recurrence occurs in less than ten per cent and usually during the first year.

THE "FLU," AND WHAT IT SHOULD TEACH US

Dr. Axel Emil Gibson, Los Angeles, California.

It has been ascertained that the disease called "Spanish Influenza" is due to the attack of microscopic organism passing under the alias of "Bacillus Pfeiffer" and whose general characteristics bear earmarks of a physiological scavenger.

Now a scavenger is an entity—feathered or unfeathered—whose business is to save the community from self-poisoning, by removing from its thoroughfares all the things of decay and putrefaction. Thus when a housekeeper sees a flock of scavenger birds hover over her back yard or alley-way, she knows there is some carcass festering in the precincts; and when the intelligent physician finds his patients suffer from the ravages of a swarm of "Bacillus Pfeiffers" or some other nondescript micro-organisms, he knows at once that in the system of this patient must be found substances attractive to the palate of these physiological scavenger hordes.

For it is a universal law that no life can exist without something upon which to live. Hence a system which does not furnish suitable accommodations for these unbidden vulture guests will suffer very little inconvenience from their visit.

And it is the difference in the period and intensity of the attack that indicates the difference in the physiological cleanliness of the attacked individuals.

For it is natural that the more "physiological garbage" in the system, the longer it takes the Influenza microbe to complete his task. In some cases where the deposits of decay are light and quickly removed, the patient may suffer no other inconveniences than a few punches here and there—a thrust in the stomach, a grab by the throat or a smart slap in the face—and the inspection and housecleaning is over; while, on the other hand, where every cell in the system is found to be an overflowing swill barrel, the mass to be removed or burned up calls for such swarms of scavengers that their presence in the organism may so clog up its membranes and passages that the vital processes and circulatory exchanges of the system become impossible. Adding to this the deadly ptomaines arising from the general excretions of the microbic army of occupation, it is readily seen that unless the individual possesses a strong vital reserve force, his existence is thrown into the greatest peril.

Now the great, all-important question arises: What causes a naturally wholesome human organism to turn into a reeking, fermenting heap of putrefaction, fit for nothing but to be feasted on by microbes? As there are only two avenues by which the human being receives support and sustenance, the cause must be found in either of the two: Either in the mind or the body; either in what we think or in what we eat.

Excitement of the mind brings about the same weakening reactions upon the system as intoxications of the body, and give rise to the same degeneracy and loss of vital reserves. Combustive t'hrills" or corrosive worries; the burning fires of uncontrolled emotions or the fretting acids of a fermenting stomach bring about the same ultimate results: lowering of vital tone and the exposure of the system to any passing non-descript horde of microbes.

It is a strange coincidentec that the most formidable cause to physical breakdown should be found in the indulgence of a function which lies at the very basis of organized life: eating. Misuse of food—its reckless mixtures—has caused more disease than the misuse of drink itself. Gluttony, though its immediate effects may be masked by a strong stomach, is ultimately as fatal to strength and manhood as intemperance in drinks. For gluttony, with its reckless mixtures and excess of food, leads to gastric and intestinal fermentation, and alcohol, whether distilled in a fermenting stomach or indulged in straight from the whiskey bottle, has the same effect upon the

system—the destruction of vital reserves, intended to be used for the preservation of health and strength in old age.

The question of health is contained in the power of resistance to disease, and anything that lessens this resistance lessens our grip on life. An indulgence which, in equal degree to gluttony, impairs our vital powers meets us in the indulgence in the “soft drink,” passing as the alcoholic substitute. We fail to realize that most of the coloring and flavoring extracts used in these beverages are taken from coal-tar products whose crude, inorganic, non-vital ingredients are positive aliens to organized life, and by its crude contact creates a shock to the sensitive nerves and membranes of the entire digestive tract. The sweetening of the beverage with saccharine—another mineral substance, and “charging” with carbon—a mere organic ash, irritating to the delicate membranes of the system—turns these temperance beverages into veritable stomach destroyers, sweeping through the digestive tract with the effect of a cyclone sweeping over a farm field.

The habitual indulgence in ice creams and the various “sundae” preparations are equally preposterous to animated life. No living membranes were ever adjusted to sustain the devitalizing frigid touch of the ice cream, rendered still more penetrating to the delicate tissues by the fermentation arising from the effect of the sugar. For in thawing up his ice cream and subduing the fermentation of its sugar and subsequent lactic and fatty acids generated in the process, the individual is using up more vital and nervous energy than needed to beat off all the world’s epidemics.

For it is only natural to be well, and no microbe can overcome the impregnable defenses which loyalty to nature and temperance to her products build up around us. In fact, if, in our daily life, we limited our indulgence to the things which nature, under the auspices of an all-wise Providence, through the perennial fountains of the fruit, the plant and the grain, brings up to us; while barred from the baleful manipulations of the beverage-distillers, the food-manufacturers and the pastry cooks, afflictions such as epidemics, colds, infections, tumors and other symptoms of an outraged and substituted nature would be unknown. Pure air, pure water, pure food and constructive exercise under the guidance of domestic and universal virtues will raise man from his serfdom under drugs and surgery to his own true estate of health, strength, service and unfading joy.

AMERICAN RED CROSS IN JERUSALEM

How American Red Cross physicians engaged in relief work here are accomplishing worth while results in the face of great difficulties—and what they are up against, is shown in a report just received here from W. S. Dodd, A. R. C. doctor working at Mejdol in this section.

With two capable English trained nurses, and three native helpers, more or less useful, Dr. Dodd, his "hospital" housed under tents, performed 252 operations in seven weeks, besides giving medical examinations, treatment and counsel to hundreds of the destitute inhabitants and refugees.

His report says in part: "The work of the hospital was of the plainest sort, it might be called primitive. About twenty-five tents comprised the hospital proper, with a dispensary tent, and tents for the living quarters of the staff.

The soil was all the purest sea-sand with thistles and scant grass; going barefoot was the universal custom, and in our own quarters we of the staff used to follow that custom with great pleasure. * * *

"The professional side of the work was of the greatest interest to me and every day was a pleasure. The clinics numbered sixty to a hundred a day. Of course we had all classes of cases in medicine and general surgery, but by far the larger proportion of our patients were eye-cases.

"Of the 252 operations that I did in less than seven weeks, 222 were for the eyes. This is the number of persons operated on, most of them having more than one operation, perhaps on all four lids, so that I really operated on 408 eyes.

"There were some cataracts, not more than would be seen in the same number of cases elsewhere, but trachoma and its consequences accounts for almost all of the eye troubles in this land. I set out to treat these cases radically and secured fine results when I could keep the patients long enough for a reasonable after-treatment. But even so, the number of eyes that can be saved from partial and total blindness is large and the economic value of each eye thus saved is enough to make the prosecution of this line of work of the greatest importance for the redemption of the land.

"The accident cases are always interesting. I had the last end of treatment of some cases of bombed hands, of which there had been quite a number in the earlier days. These were largely in children, and were due to their picking up unexploded Turkish bombs that were lying in the fields from the time of the British advance in the Gaza region. Many

fingers and even hands were lost from this cause.

"Vermin was the great enemy we had to fight. Fleas were hardly counted as a problem because we could do nothing against them, they were everywhere and inevitable, and so far as we know at present not being the carriers of any special disease, did not come within the hostility of a medical conscience.

"Lice and maggots were a daily terror. How many wounds and injuries came to us filled with maggots I cannot tell. A favorite dressing for a wound is a piece of raw meat, a breeding place for maggots, and they can hardly be blamed for invading the adjoining premises.

"Many a child had to be put under chloroform in order to search out and pull from their hiding places deep in the middle ear a half dozen wriggling maggots whose every motion was causing torture to the innocent victim.

"A woman came to the clinic complaining of headache. A single sore on her face led to questioning, and when she rather unwillingly undid her turban we found an exaggerated case of impetigo, and every separate sore was as if the whole thickness of the scalp down to the bone had been punched out, and every sore was a nest of maggots. I removed 60 at the first seance, and at the first dressing next day the nurse had more to do. The headache was cured without further treatment. And these are not the most loathsome cases that we saw.

"Another great difficulty with which we had to contend was the filthy habits of the people. In spite of providing proper sanitary facilities, we were compelled to have a scavenger go around every morning and clean up the filth from around the tents of the patients. The women were as bad offenders as the men. We made it a rule that anyone known to have violated these simple sanitary regulations must go without their dinner next day, and this was quite an effective punishment."

THE CALIFORNIA ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL

The Official Organ of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of California, the Southern California Eclectic Medical Association and the Los Angeles Eclectic Medical Society.

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GERMAN MEDICINE

Several years ago the writer went to Europe to do post-graduate work, the particular goal being Berlin—such being the custom of that day. However a short time spent in the wards of the Charité Hospital—the great hospital of that city—convinced us that the abilities of their medical men were very much overrated. The work which we there saw done by their so-called great men was in no sense superior to that done by the average American doctor who makes no pretense to be other than a general practitioner. Furthermore all of the above applies with equal justice to the Alte Krankenhaus, the principal hospital of Vienna. Our gain in both hospitals consisted largely in learning how not to do certain operations. All of which we have stated many times before, and it is restated at this time because so many of our Allopathic Medical Societies are passing resolutions condemnatory of all things in the medical world of German origin. Such resolutions as we have noticed in our Exchange hew closely to the line with a lucid statement of facts. The following is said to

have been unanimously adopted by the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine, and is a fair sample:

"Whereas, Included in its unconscionable and secret propaganda, the German nation has made it appear that its achievements in medicine, surgery and the allied sciences are of much greater importance than in truth they are; and,

"Whereas, The German nation has shown its will to use all its prestige, whether rightfully or wrongfully acquired, to gain economic control of the world through military and political supremacy over the world; and,

"Whereas, In pursuit of such supremacy it has disregarded all its solemn promises, covenants and obligations, and has sought to overcome all other nations by the most shocking frightfulness and inhuman cruelties;

"Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine, that it disapproves the use of German quotations, or translation of German quotations, in its proceedings; that it will not keep German literature in its archives; that the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine will not admit of anyone of pro-German sentiments to its membership; that it will not permit the presence of portraits of German scientists or medical men or women; that this society will neither purchase nor use anything made in Germany, and that it thoroughly disapproves the attendance of medical students at the educational institutions of Germany."

As an American citizen the reader doubtless will approve of the sentiments expressed in the above set of resolutions; but as an Eclectic physician he may congratulate himself that he will have to mend his ways not at all.

The "fathers" were such strong advocates of the use of native drugs that Eclectic Medicine and American Medicine were established as synonymous terms and have remained so to this day. The writer well remembers that during the la grippe pandemic the Germans introduced, and by extensive advertising forced the use of, various coal tar derivatives. Eclectics everywhere fought the use of these drugs not because they were of German origin, but because we were already provided with native drugs which were more efficacious and not dangerous. Many Eclectics believed that the coal tar series of drugs killed more patients than did la grippe itself. That the use of such drugs is at present considered harmful by our Allopathic friends and little used is well known; and that they are now "putting the ban on" other drugs of similar origin and action indicates that they are learning, though some three decades behind the times. "Here's hoping" that they may continue in well doing.

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"THE ODIUM OF ECLECTICISM"**John Uri Lloyd, Phar. M., Cincinnati.****Read at the Meeting of the Ohio State Eclectic Medical Society,
Columbus, 1898**

My friends, my Eclectic friends, we have been together many years. As I speak, my eyes rest on middle-aged men in the prime of life before whom, in their youth, I stood as teacher. Young men before me are just entering upon their life work. And there are many vacant places, wherein sat comrades of the past who are no longer among us. Together we have studied, aiming to add our mite to the relief of human suffering, in which we believe all sections of the medical profession are mutually concerned. The work we have done is now behind us; down into history it must go; it is not to be recalled; it will stand to our credit or to our shame. Never have I felt any hesitancy concerning our work, its justness towards man and men or its benefit to humanity. Neither have you questioned the cause in which we have engaged. Never have I had reason to regret that my nearest professional friends are Eclectics; and I hope that you have no cause to regret my presence. But, my friends, history is as cold as she is heartless. History has no friendly hand to hold out to you or to me, or to any other man because of personal friendships. Our deeds will be shuffled and assorted after our bodies, our passions, our rivalries, our present cares and concerns have passed away.

This is fact, and facing this fact I have presumed to head this paper that I am reading to an Eclectic Society, "The Odium of Eclecticism."

Are we ready, are we willing to place our work in the hands of the historian? Will history discredit us and write over the page in which we are mentioned the word odium in connection with the work we have done? I have an opinion, perhaps I am prejudiced, perhaps it is audacious for me to speak, but still I have my opinion, and I believe that your life work and my life work have not been lost.

The title of this paper is not of my own creation. I would not have made it so strong. It is in quotation marks. These words were spoken years ago, literally, by a friend who desired to leave our ranks, who did leave our ranks, and who voiced his own mind when he spoke that sentence. They were not, however, reproduced by me to introduce any person. I simply use them as a text. I gave them every consideration

then, and my friend, for he was a personal friend, occupied a position near enough to others and high enough in society to make them merit my earnest consideration. I believe, now, after years of reflection and study, as I did when in the flush of youth, that he erred when he used the term odium in connection with Eclecticism. But, the word was used, and has since been used, and we should not evade an issue. If there be any taint attached to our part of the work of life we should face it now, correct our faults, if possible, and not shove the record with its blemishes into history's hand and let posterity meet it in the day to come. I for one, am willing and ready to hand the record we have made over to history, the judge who sifts, compares and assorts men's actions.

But why should the word odium have been used? Every effect must have a cause; what have we done that this term should be used in connection with ourselves? Let us investigate in a fair way and without prejudice. I have studied over this subject for years, and my conclusions lead me to the belief that passion, rivalry, prejudice, slavery to authority, error in ourselves and others, and the claims of audacious pretenders, led to the use of the expression. But, my friends, there are two sides to every question. We are not guilty of having done a great wrong, neither are we altogether faultless. Let us consider these terms in sequence.

Passion.—Early records show that great passions stirred the breasts of the fathers of Eclecticism. The language used by some of our members concerning other schools was not always elegant. Often it was almost vicious, and I am sorry that it stands on record. But the fact that the antagonists of these early Eclectics used still stronger terms; that oppression in that early day was not an empty word; that Eclectic physicians were then struggling for professional as well as for material existence, is, however, an excuse for much, if not for all they said and did, and I for one, would be willing to let any just committee of the regular school of the present day take the record of both sides and decide as to who was the most passionate. I regret that some harsh things stand in print, but still, honors are easy. It was give and take. If Eclecticism is odious because of unkind words spoken by its members, fifty years ago, the name regular is no less odious, for stronger words were used by them concerning us. My friends, passion was then rampant. I see no cause for history to throw any odium over us and then absolve our energetic rivals.

"Slavery to Authority."—This term surely can not be as directly applied to the early Eclectics as to their regular an-

tagonists. Eclecticism was born as a protest against authority, that came from Europe, and in the opinion of the early Eclectics, this misguided authority bound the minds of the regular profession to many undesirable methods of medication that could not be displaced, except by breaking away from subjection to that authority. It is unnecessary for me to go into details concerning these once conspicuous differences. They are in the hand of history. Neither can any good come to mankind by discussing issues that no longer exist. If the word odium be attached to persons who in those early days opposed the subjects of misguided authority, we must bear the blame that rests upon us; but we certainly have not heired the sins of the men who most directly inherited the term. I see no cause why the term odium should rest on any relpless man who mistakes by reason of the fact that he is the blind subject to authority; and it is well known that no man felt more severely than have I the persecution of authority that in pharmaceutical ethics (from my standpoint) once misled the majority. Authority that I honor still, and grant was looking only to the good of pharmacy, erred, I believe, in its ethical teaching, and I suffered much cricism in consequence of my heterodoxy. But I must not burden this paper with affairs in which I am chiefly concerned.

,Error is natural. The word error carries with it (to me) no sense of odium. Errors have been made by all schools of medicine, and by individuals in all schools; to be free from error would be to approach divinity. Yes, we have made many mistakes, and we expect to make them hereafter. The making of mistakes and the correcting of them moves mankind upward. Friends, we have, in my opinion, however, made no greater mistakes either of omission or of commission than others have made; neither are our errors comparatively more numerous or of greater magnitude. We do not merit the application of the term odium because of honest error, whether the fault be small or great.

Rivalry is honorable. Among my business rivals I number some of my dearest friends. The time has long since passed when any touch of personal unfriendliness came to me in connection with the term rival, and I see no reason why personal animosity should separate rival physicians. Some of my pharmaceutical friends are less successful in business than myself, but the majority are very much more successful. Nothing is more pleasurable to me than to extend a helping hand through suggestion or advice to those less successful. The prosperity of honorable men who are more successful than I

have been is a matter of congratulation in which I heartily join. I claim the right to take a personal pride in more than one (rival) magnificent pharmaceutical establishment of America, to the greatness of which by being a (small) rival I have indirectly contributed. No man honors an unfair adversary. Rivalry spurs men to self-exertion. Honorable rivalry is an heritage of honorable business.

My friends, Eclectics are in the minority when compared with the number of physicians bearing the name regular. As a minority rival we must consider methods and look well to our principles, and not to comparative numbers. The aim of each branch of the medical profession is to relieve the ills and sufferings of humanity. I speak advisedly when I claim that there should be no other strife between them. There can be no other honorable rivalry between schools of medicine than that of best serving the unfortunate and afflicted, and while our methods of practice and our medicines and pharmacy, in many respects, are very different from those of our regular brethren, the good of mankind is unquestionably the objective of both. Whoever uses the word odium when speaking of our contributions to medical and pharmacal science in behalf of man's welfare, does so either through thoughtlessness or through ignorance.

Ignorance is not in itself a term that necessarily merits any mark of reproach. The whole world is ignorant today of events that will burst into life tomorrow. Ignorance is an odium only in connection with those who do not seek knowledge, or do not strive to be enlightened. It is not wise for man to deny himself the benefit of scholastic education. If as Eclectics we refrain from teaching the axioms that general science has shown to be fact, and send out our young men ignorant of anatomy, chemistry, botany and other science treasures that are necessary to the physician's education, we are to blame, and in that sense the term odious might be applied to us. Many talented men of the regular profession believe we do this. But such a charge is unjust. Ask of the members of the State examining boards who examine our graduates. Ask of physicians who have attended other colleges as well as our own and are competent to answer. Ask men of professional or scientific education who visit us socially and in whose company we are often thrown, who know our ambitions and our works. We are not satisfied with all things that concern the medical education of the present; neither is any other thoughtful man. But I believe that, without exception, just critics will say, that while there is room for im-

provement in all schools, there is no reason why the term odious should be applied directly to us in contradistinction to other schools of medicine. I believe that Eclectic physicians are as well drilled in the general branches of medicine as are those of any other school, and that they are not less qualified concerning the methods and medicines of their rivals, than are these rivals concerning our Eclectic materia medica.

But, my friends, we can not; we must not deny that many men who have borne the name Eclectic have been below this highest educational standard. Do not understand me to desire to excuse or even apologize for such people. In this respect, however, honors are easy. Our friends of the regular school are also sufferers by reason of some incompetent members. I believe that I voice the sentiments of a majority of the representative members of all the medical schools in America, when I say that in my opinion the highest practical demand possible concerning a preliminary education is none too high to be applied uniformly to every man or woman who proposes to enter any American medical college. I believe, also, that I voice the sentiment of every true Eclectic when I say to the powers that be, make the preliminary educational standard as high as our regular friends care to have it, make it uniform the country over, show no favoritism to either the weak or to the strong, and Eclectics will be in harmony. Then, in behalf of humanity and our country's good, compel American medical colleges, all of them, to live up to this standard.

Prejudice is evidence of mental weakness, an indication of one-sided thought. And yet, who of us is not more or less afflicted in this way. Men are frequently prejudiced against men whom they have never seen, and a gifted man is often the subject of prejudice in the eyes of him who lacks understanding. That is, a man gifted in a certain line may be the object of prejudice of the man who has never personally searched that man's field. Celebrated authority, conspicuous men, talented in certain directions, may despise a man alike conscientious and conspicuous in other lines of work. The ignorant man listens to an authority who criticizes, and he may unthinkingly despise a person he has never seen, and may even outdo his leader. I have seen Eclectic physicians who, in my opinion, were very one-sided, owing to their prejudices. And truly, try as I may, I can not altogether exclude prejudice from my own personality. Yet I realize that prejudice is an element of weakness, and of uncharity to my fellowman, and that it frequently exists because of the lack of personal acquaintance. But, while we as Eclectics are not blameless in

this direction, we are not alone in being prejudiced, for I have heard the most heartless remarks made by men unfairly prejudiced against us, by men who were absolutely uninformed as to the nature of our works or our accomplishments. Talented regular physicians, more especially in former years, without any personal knowledge based on fact, considered us as quacks, and too often believed (from prejudice) that we were, all of us, illiterate and ignorant charlatans. The opinion of those men who do not know us other than by hearsay, who judge us only by an acquaintance with some one man who claims to be an Eclectic, but who is a credit neither to himself nor his friends, casts no odium upon us. Such prejudice against us is the result of ignorance or understudy. No longer am I disturbed when, because of my life study among Eclectic remedies, my close friendship and love for my Eclectic co-laborers, or on account of my principles and belief, the term quack or irregular is applied to me by any thoughtless man, gifted though he may be in some directions. Neither am I incensed. Perhaps for their good works in other lines, these unkind, or at least thoughtless men, may merit and may have my highest admiration, and I regret that only through a misunderstanding of my aim and belief, and through their ignorance of the talents of my friends, I can not merit theirs.

Once I heard a young man just out of a rival medical college, call Prof. John King, the genial friend to humanity, the philanthropist and scholar (whom this young man had never seen), "an old quack." Prof. John King needed no defense. The man who read several languages, who wrote standard works on medicine before that young man was born, who sacrificed wealth and conspicuity because of his membership in the minority, who studied and taught materia medica for the love of mankind, had made his own defense in deeds which speak to us all now after his voice is stilled. He was not made a quack by the application of the term. But the name of the young man who used the distasteful epithet so flip-pantly is long since forgotten. I tried hard to recall it in order to make this record more complete, but in vain.

I am not inclined to excuse impoliteness, and I speak in all earnestness when I say that if there be odium of prejudice attached to us as a school, and I do not deny that harsh words have been used by us in prejudice about our powerful rivals, our part is far less than must be borne by them.

The minority is a necessary part of civilized communities. In politics, in State, in all affairs of men the minority serves a wise purpose. The minority is the safety valve of govern-

ment. I do not shrink from the term minority. There is no odium attached to the minority. But many persons are anxious to stand with the strong party, right or wrong. In doing so some physicians may perhaps escape what they believe to be the "Odium of Eclecticism." If our membership in the minority alone be an odium let it stand. The historian of the future, whoever he may be, must cast that stone, for it is fact. It gives me no concern, however, for I have no fear of injustice from the impartial historian of any school of medicine. My friends, I have traveled these thought lines over and have studied the men of the past and of the present. I am satisfied to have my name go down in history as one who has spent his life as a member of the minority in more directions than one; and I believe that as I have shirked no responsibility, I have earned my full share of reproach, if there be any reproach, in the part that you and I have borne as workers in the Eclectic section, the minority school in medicine.

Audacious Pretenders.—Said a conspicuous and talented man in pharmacy, one whose name is known this country over, who in common with a few others had been invited to partake of an evening entertainment with a party of Eclectic physicians, myself being one of the company, "Lloyd, I hear most of Eclectics as traveling advertisers, men who put up at our hotels and advertise as cancer curers, etc." In other words, he might have said as base pretenders. My friends, to be candid with you and candid with myself, this charge is not to be lightly passed. It is the charge that you have met, that I have met, and it demands consideration. Is it true? If true, is it wrong to do these things? I shall not pretend to voice you in the matter. I ask no one to involve himself because of my belief, and I do not ask this to be considered or to be construed as other than a personal view. I firmly believe it to be wrong to advertise to cure incurable diseases, and many physicians so consider typical cancer. But, if cancer can be cured by any man by methods or by remedies unknown to others, his name should become conspicuous, and his discovery should be purchased by the people and made public for humanity's sake. But if no such secret exists, men who advertise to make these cures are surely audacious pretenders.

Admitting that they are not possessed of such a charm (and I have no confidence in any of them), the next point to consider is, are they Eclectics?

Alas, my friends, the liberty of thought that is one of the principles of our school has been abused too often by men who endeavor to make of the name Eclecticism a cloak under which

to hide their misdeeds in order to misstate. No reputable teacher in our school, no conspicuous member of our section in medicine, travels over the land making any such pretense, or even sanctions any such advertising methods. The fact that these traveling pretenders claim to be Eclectics does not give them a place or position in our ranks. Mind you, friends, I would not presume to make a charge against the ethics of a talented physician who having mastered a subject either in surgery or medicine, believes he has the right to travel and practice his specialty; it is not for me to say that he is doing humanity a wrong. I only say that men who hold our diplomas and advertise that they can accomplish what must at present be considered as impossibilities do not do so with the sanction of our school or others. This point I desire to emphasize.

But, in refuting this charge, in which I surely make no error, I do not deny that some men who hold diplomas from Eclectic colleges do this very thing, and, I speak for the regular profession as well as for ourselves, when I say that to their deep regret many regular diplomas also are held aloft by such pretenders. Neither the college of the one nor of the other section, school if you please, can deny this fact and both are alike unfortunate. My experience is to the effect that instead of Eclectics being most conspicuous in this direction, our regular friends have many more graduates engaged in this work than we have. This is natural, for they have a larger membership, and are in this sense the more unfortunate. The odium of the mountebank, the pretender, rests on these men, not on the colleges that taught them legitimate medicine and always opposed such methods. Neither does it fall on the section or school of medicine to which they belong. The rank and file, the teachers and leaders of the schools of medicine in this land are all free from this responsibility. The charge of odium is misplaced when in this respect it is affixed to either others or to ourselves.

There may be other charges made against us, but if any remain they are not important. I have surely considered those which are most conspicuous. In my opinion, the light of investigation, whoever may be the searcher or the historian, will demonstrate, whatever may be the charge, that we are not free from human error, our shortcomings are not more numerous than are those of the members of other schools of medicine.

Some may think that I should consider other phases of this question and speak of the positive work that as a school we have done, the contributions we have made to the world; but,

even though it were proper to do so, neither time nor subject permits it. The negative side is before us. We are restricted by the title of the paper. I have endeavored to make it fair and honorable and to avoid any display of temper.

In closing I must say, that in my opinion a closer acquaintanceship with other schools in medicine will surely lead them to grant as fact all that I have said. Even now the representative men of the regular school seem to agree that we are not altogether bad; and it seems to me that the tendency now is to criticize us for maintaining a separate action in medicine rather than for any positive wrong we are doing, a criticism that may be just from their standpoint, but which I cannot concede to be best for progressive medicine.

It behooves us, my Eclectic friends, to live consistently, to make no extravagant claims, to keep our educational standard as high as is the highest, to encourage investigation, to be charitable towards the opinions of others, avoid dissembling. No odium can be attached to such work. If we move onward, and as we progress contribute our part to the upward steps of science, giving to others and crediting to others what belongs to them, no discredit can fall on our name, our works, or on ourselves.

My friends, I reiterate that I do not intend to subscribe to what I believe to be false ethics in pharmacy simply because authority that carries with it the majority of pharmacists (or once did) accepts it now. Even if I stand alone I shall maintain my principles, and in the future as in the past I shall do that which I believe to be the right, regardless of any personal abuse, or harsh criticism that may follow this stand.

So in Eclecticism I believe that we can do humanity's cause no greater good than to act the gentleman and move onward, treating all men as gentlemen, and to contribute conservatively to scientific and educational literature. If we do this, and due courtesy be not extended to us, the odium rests not on us.

And now, in conclusion, I must ask you to pardon the personal tone of this communication. I feel that my opinion may not agree with that of all who listen to me, but it is farthest from my intention to involve any man in responsibilities that should be assumed by myself alone. It is proper that such a paper as this be written in the first person.

LOOKING BACK

Galileo attacked the Polmemic system of the heavens; and Bacon the dialectics of Aristotle. Obloquy and proscription have ever assailed all great discoveries and apparent innovations. It has ever been one of the most unseemly traits of the human character! Pride and selfishness lie at the bottom of all hostility. Envy and jealousy prompt such antagonism. Progress is opposed by the non-progressives. It presumes that all is known that can be.

Great minds have always seized upon opportunities, and have made them for themselves.

Alexander forced the Pythian priestess on the Tripod, on a forbidden day; and the Pythian exclaimed, "My son, thou art invincible."

It was neither to the witty and polished Greek, nor to the grave and stately Roman, are we indebted for dyes for clothes and metals, but to nations denominated barbarous.

Europe may glory in her discoveries, but the art of printing has been described to persons so obscure, that China claims it. Newton would perhaps never have read the heavens had it not been suggested by some children, in Zealand, playing with the glasses of a spectacle-maker. An obscure monk discovered powder. Had it not been that simple aborigines furnished him with food, Columbus and his followers would have perished, and his expedition proved a failure. It was the fortuitous observation of the colonel of a marching regiment that gave the great Sydenham the idea of bleeding.

To promote health of body and tranquility of mind, the sages of antiquity labored with the most severe and incessant toil. They studied the constitution of man, that they might find out the seat of his maladies and the sources of his misery. To assuage the sorrows of the heart, and lift the load from melancholic minds; to restore a desponding spirit to elasticity and vigor, they exhausted all the powers of reason, and all the arguments and arts of their philosophy. Sometimes they failed, but more often they succeeded. The Greeks were more successful in treating diseased bodies than they were in treating mental ills. Athens was rescued from the plague by a single man—Hippocrates. Harvey was hounded through Europe for demonstrating the circulation of the blood, but he denied there was a thoracic duct. Dr. Rush bewailed the defects of medical science, and consoled himself with the hope that the day would come when all diseases would be banished, and that death would only come to old age. Great men are not always wise.

Plato's philosophy would do for the creed of Christian Scientists! He claimed that "light was the shadow of Deity, and truth his soul." He says the wise and good, as they approximated the source of glory and intelligence were clothed and animated by that heavenly essence which he poured out from the fountain of his eternal being; that into the cup mixed for the formation of man, he poured a portion of his own divinity. Bias, another ancient philosopher, said: "I carry with me all my possessions, of which neither fate, nor foe, nor death, rob me." He considered everything else as nothing. He rivals "Life-for-ever" Jones!

Sanitary science and hygienic laws were famous in the days of Moses, which he learned from the Egyptians. Specialists were known among the Egyptians.

The first time physicians were appointed for the army, was by the great Cyrus; and Sambyses, his son, continued the policy. Ever since, surgeons are provided for the army. Cyrus also kept eminent physicians about his court. The President of the United States also has his personal physician at the White House. Alexander the Great appointed Phillip as his physician. Menecrates, was physician to Seleucus. Democedes was a great Persian physician, and ministered to Darius. There were great and successful physicians in remote times; and, according to history, were remarkably skilled for that early period. They were great, even before their times.

From a vigorous infancy the science of medicine has grown to a stalwart period. It is so today. Some wonderful men were the founders of the science; such as Galen, Sydenham, Celsus, Paracelsus, Cullen, Vareolus, Harvey, Bartholin, Boerhave, and numerous others. All were eminent. Let the present-day physicians emulate their studious and painstaking quest for knowledge.—F. in Charlotte Medical Journal.

SOCIETY CALENDAR

National Eclectic Medical Association meets in Detroit, Michigan, June 18-19, 1918. Dr. W. P. Best, Indianapolis, Ind., President; Dr. H. H. Helbing, St. Louis, Mo., Secretary.

Eclectic Medical Society of the State of California meets in Los Angeles, May, 1918. H. V. Brown, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal., President; A. P. Baird, M. D., Los Angeles, Secretary.

Southern California Eclectic Medical Association meets in May, 1918. Dr. Clinton Roath, Los Angeles, President; Dr. H. C. Smith, Glendale, Secretary.

Los Angeles Eclectic Medical Society meets at 8 p. m. on the first Monday of each month. F. J. West, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal., President; C. Ohnemüller, M. D., Los Angeles, Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. H. C. Smith has returned to his home in Glendale after being discharged from the army at Fort Riley.

Dr. B. Ferrall, Bend, Oregon, is in Southern California resting and convalescing from a severe illness.

Dr. U. C. Coe, formerly of Bend, Oregon, after taking post-graduate work in New York, has located in Portland, Oregon.

Died: Dr. O. E. Dahlen, Los Angeles, a former student of the C. E. M. C., but a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College, 1917, died December 10, after a few days illness with influenza. He was 42 years old and is survived by a wife.

Dr. E. R. Petskey has moved from Douglas, Ariz., to Jefferson Hotel, Phoenix, Ariz.

Dr. H. V. Brown has been discharged from the service of the government and has returned to Los Angeles.

Dr. Harriet Mcraw, Lincoln, Neb., has returned to Los Angeles and expects to make this her permanent home.

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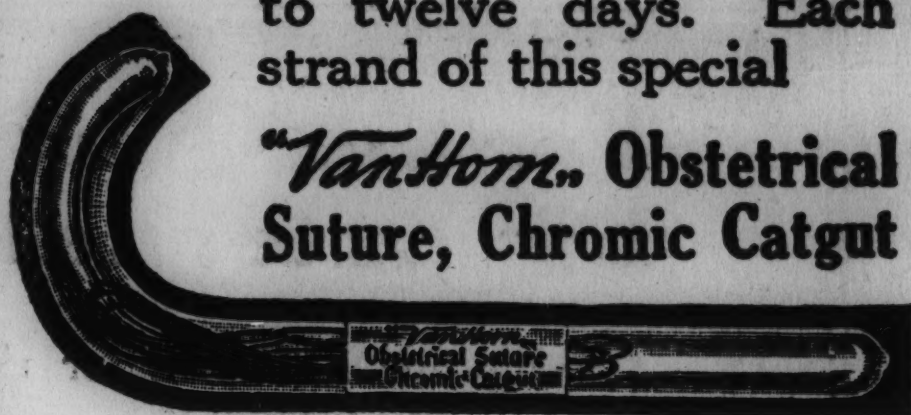
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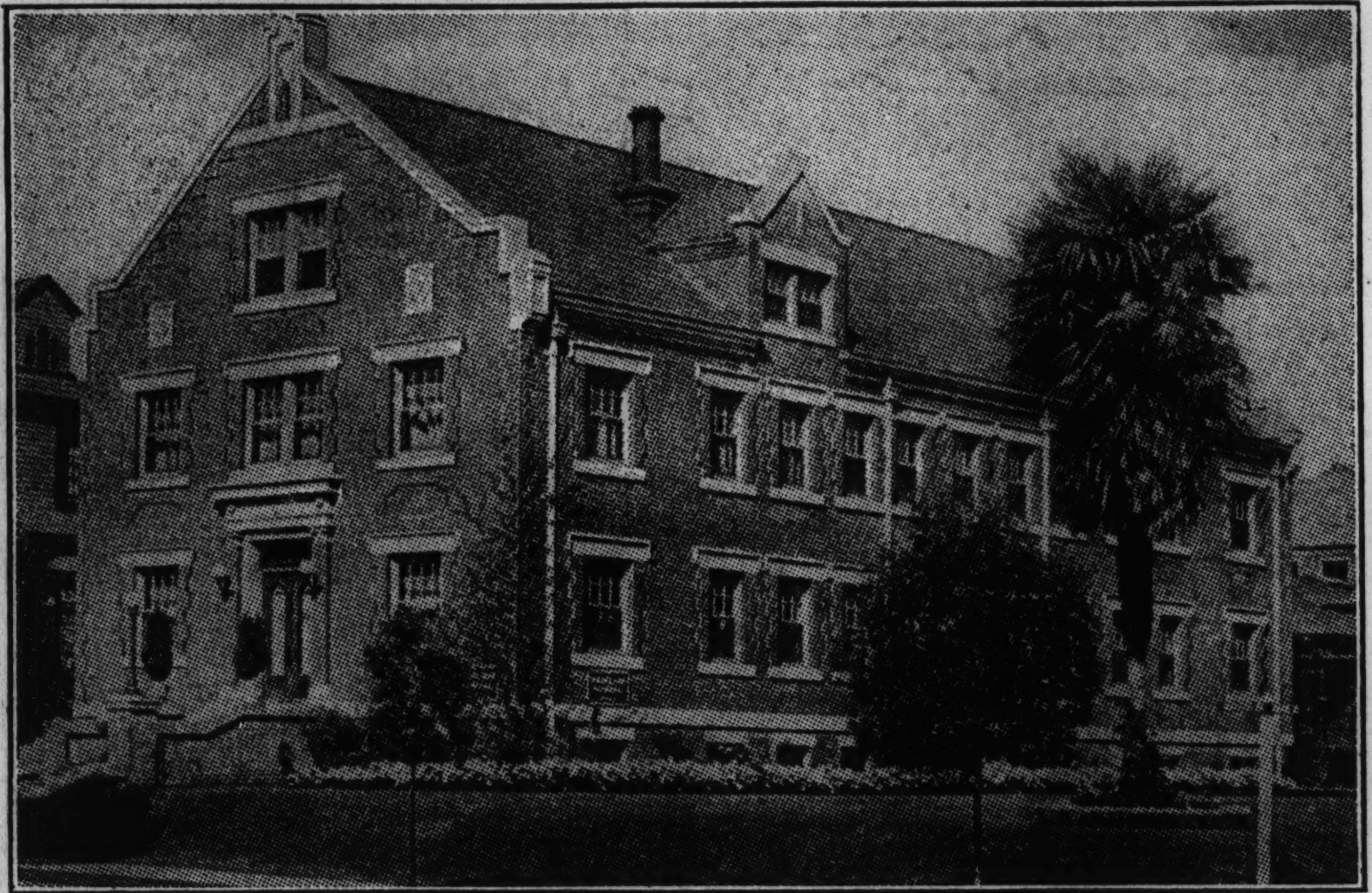
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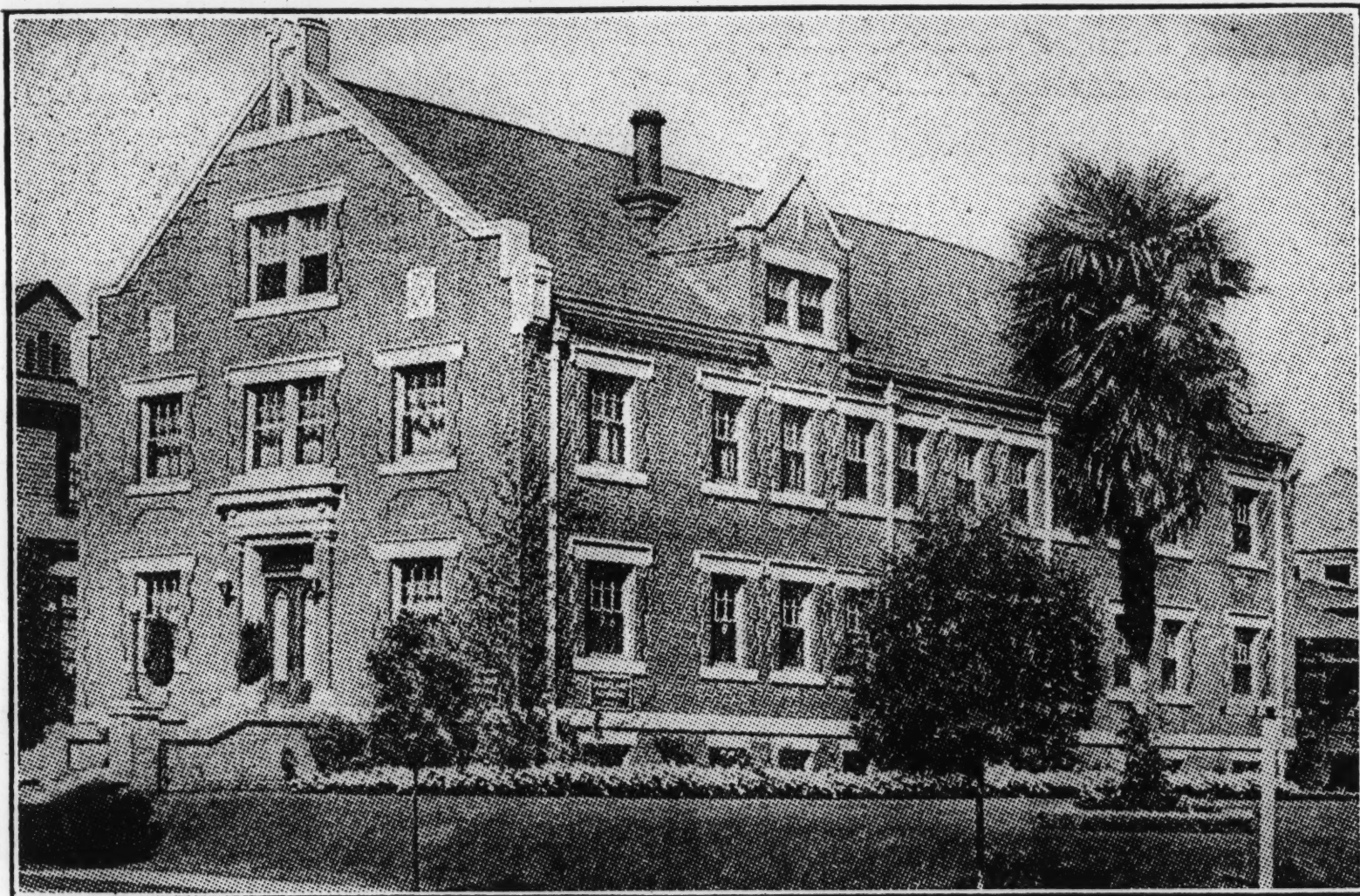
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